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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 1915.

## VARYING VIEWS OF THE FLAG

Having said things about the American Government they would not have been permitted to say about the government of their own countries had they remained at home, certain hyphenated citizens now are clamoring loudly for the protection of foreign-built ships which claim American registry under the act of 1914. No one is going to get excited over the sudden respect these citizens seem to have formed for the American flag since the Hocking case, and since several letters have been written to the Secretary of State, urging the claims of other vessels that wish to sail. This effort to wave a sort of psychological flag over ships of questionable status by sympathizers with Germany, is closely akin to the action of the British in placing real American flags over their vessels for protection.

Senator Fletcher, who was chairman of the Commerce Committee when the bill providing for the registry of foreign built ships, and of vessels with foreign crews until 1921, has stated that he believes this Government will give its protection to all ships which can show bona fide purchase and registry. But neither he, nor any other proponents of a measure intended only to develop our merchant marine, sanction the protection of vessels whose American registry is debatable, and which, even if registered, may have their registry invalidated by failure to comply with the requirements concerning ownership.

The tremendous respect some folk gain for the American flag when a matter of protection is involved, and the sudden falling off of that respect when nothing is wanted of this Government, is surprising. The State Department has indicated that it intends to protect all vessels, duly purchased from neutrals, in accordance with maritime law. The protection to be accorded vessels that have been owned by persons from belligerent nations, and in which such persons still have an interest, is problematical.

## BRYAN'S DECLARATION OF WAR

William Jennings Bryan, the apostle of peace at any price, has declared war against President Wilson. But he will never be able to block Mr. Wilson's program for preparedness if the President has a suitable plan and is determined to press it.

Mighty few Democrats in Congress would dare defy national sentiment, which is overwhelmingly in favor of strengthening our military forces both on sea and on land. If, however, some Democrats in the House and in the Senate should be mad enough to align themselves against the necessary appropriations merely on the peace grounds outlined in Mr. Bryan's statement there would be Republicans in abundance to supply the votes such Bryan followers might withhold from the military measures which are imperative to the safety of the nation.

What Bryan, balked in Congress, could do against Mr. Wilson in the political field is a horse of another color. Undoubtedly he is shrewd enough to see that the tide has already turned against the Democratic policies. He may calculate that if he sets up the false issue of anti-militarism he may be able to make it appear that the country has rejected not the Democratic party's economic policies, for which he, just as much as Mr. Wilson, is responsible, but the departure by the Democratic party from the Bryan peace dreams.

Mr. Bryan may think he can shift the blame from the Democratic tariff measure to the Wilson military program. But he can't.

The American people want and will have military preparedness, though Mr. Wilson and Mr. Bryan be as far apart as the poles.

## BRITAIN'S "FRONTIER IN EUROPE"

A dispatch from The Hague says that at a recent conference attended by several members of the reichstag, Dr. von Bethmann-Hollweg, the German imperial chancellor, describing the terms of peace that would be acceptable to the Kaiser, declared one would be the cession of Belgium and the Meuse line.

That is just another twist of the lion's tail. For centuries it has been the aim of the English to prevent any power from establishing itself on the Belgian coast in a position menacing to England. In 1632 Hugo Grotius, the first exponent of international law, wrote that "The

King of England will stand anything save the passing of the ports of Flanders into the hands of the French." In 1813 Lord Castlereagh, then British premier, asserted that "To leave Antwerp in the hands of the French would impose on us the necessity of a perpetual state of war." And Disraeli in 1870 told the commons "It is of the highest importance to this country that the whole coast from Ostend to the North Sea should be in the possession of free and flourishing communities from whose ambition the liberty and independence of England nor of any other country can be menaced."

The Franco-Belgian battle line is still the most important front in the war, and it will remain so. England's safety will not be assured until the Germans are driven back into their own country, and Belgium, together with the French territory held by the invaders, is redeemed. The neutralization of Belgium was imposed principally by Great Britain, its object being to maintain her continental bulwark. In the words of Lord Kitchener, pronounced years before this war began, "The British empire's frontier in Europe is not the channel, but the Meuse line."

## STAGING THE GREAT STRUGGLE

Many weeks ago, when the German drive into Russia was beginning to slacken and the Serbian campaign was appearing as the next move in German strategy, The Times predicted that the Near East would presently be the scene of the most absorbing events of the war. That prediction has been vindicated. Whether viewed from the military or from the diplomatic standpoint, the developments of today must be recognized as profoundly important.

Not only is the mere military detail of the war's direction and management involved, but, as in no other theater, the events in the Balkan region affect the future of continents, seas, empires; of vast stretches of the earth's surface; they have to do with the future institutions, civilizations, tendencies, of a vast share of the people of the world. It is not beyond reason to say that the processes of civilization, extending into a future of many centuries, will pivot on the events that will determine the fate of Balkania, of Constantinople, the Levant, the Mesopotamia, the Suez canal, the road to India, the high-way to all the eastern world. What Africa and Asia will be to the world of a thousand years hence is in a large way being determined by the occurrences in the mountains of Serbia and on the plain of Thessaly these very days.

Today there comes from this crucial region report that a British force of 40,000 men has been landed and is starting a diversion against Bulgaria. More troops are being brought into the action as fast as the transports of the naval powers can carry them; the number that will at length face each other in this dramatic third act of the war cannot yet be guessed. The military events await, for their final shaping, the determination of kings, cabinets, and parliaments. Greece on yesterday gave sign of the purpose of its people by rejecting, through its parliament, the Zaimis government. It was the hand and the voice of Venizelos that directed the coup; Venizelos, the statesman of united Balkania, the bete noir of the Turk, the author of the Balkan alliance that made and gloriously won the war of 1911; Venizelos, who stands for a new and greater Greece as the patient, daring, resourceful Cavour stood for the rehabilitation of Italy. It may well be questioned whether there is a statesman in Europe to compare to this real leader of the Greek nation. The hostility of an alien king may make it impossible for Venizelos, after his short retirement, to resume the reins of rule; but whether he shall head a new cabinet or not, it may be set down that the acts of the Athens government will presently have to be made consonant with the purposes and ambitions with which he has animated his people. Greece will not always submit to betrayal.

With Greece goes Roumania; and there are signs that both countries are getting ready for the determining plunge into the war. It is certain that neither of them will side against the allies; certain that both will be benevolent in their neutrality so long as they maintain it; certain that if they are forced into the war they will stand with the entente. A year hence the world will probably be wondering how it could ever have doubted that both these countries, so little and yet so vitally important in the world's struggle, would be drawn into the conflict.

If they come in; especially if they come together; then will be signaled the beginning of the end for German power. The drive through Serbia will prove the tragic blunder of German military policy. The allies understand; they are prepared resolutely to dispute the German aggression in this quarter to the very end. The British people have at last been aroused to realize that the backbone of their empire is threatened. They are prepared, as they

always have been, to put forth their most desperate efforts, now that events have taken on imperial moment. It takes a big situation to appeal to British imagination; and that situation has arisen.

## THE DISTRICT FINANCES

Perhaps the shock of losing the half-and-half fiscal arrangement between Federal and local treasury will be assuaged a good deal, in the minds of people who regard that plan as sacred, by the discovery that there is no such thing and has not been for many years. It is pretty apparent that some new scheme of providing for the Capital City is going to come from the discussions and investigations of the Congressional committee, chiefly because it has been shown that the half-and-half plan is archaic. Now, however, Commissioner Brownlow adds to this a statistical demonstration that there is little more to the plan than a tradition, a fiction; it has been built into a fetish in the minds of some people who didn't bother to discover its non-existence, and who could not bring themselves to believe that anything equally satisfactory could be substituted for it.

Commissioner Brownlow showed that in the years from 1900 to 1914 inclusive, there has been no year in which an exact division of expenses was effected. The National Treasury in 1901 paid over 60 per cent of the District budget, according to Mr. Brownlow; while in 1913 its proportion fell as low as 38 per cent. Prior to 1910 the Federal contribution was almost uniformly more than 50 per cent; since that time it has been less than half.

There has been no fiscal calamity or business disaster as a result of this condition. Most people, indeed, have hardly realized that any such shift in the burden has taken place. It will be apparent, when Mr. Brownlow's figures are examined, that the half-and-half has been merely a theory, not a practice.

Beyond this, it will be plain enough that if there were frank abandonment of the half-and-half pretense, and if the plan favored by the Commissioners were adopted—namely, of imposing reasonable taxes here, and then paying any deficit from the National Treasury—the distribution of the burden would not be materially changed from what it has been. It must be borne in mind that the half-and-half scheme was adopted at a time when the city was small and poor; and burdened with a huge debt left over to it from former regimes. The city has grown in population and wealth, and the debt has been well-nigh extinguished. There exists today a very different set of conditions from those which obtained during the period while the Federal Government was paying, not half, but at times a good deal more than half, of the expenses of the District. There was a frank willingness to make that contribution, because there was need for it. There will be times in future when extraordinary expenditures will demand the same liberality with either the cash or the credit of the National Government. It is fairly to be assumed, for example, that before many years such large projects as public ownership of some of the important municipal facilities will be undertaken. In that connection both the authority and the credit of the National Government will be needed. It is quite conceivable that Federal credit might be of more value to this city, at such a juncture, than Federal appropriations at another.

It is earnestly to be desired that a fair and understanding view may be taken of this whole fiscal question, to the end that if a change is made in the relations of District and National Government, it may not be misconstrued and regarded as a calamity to the local community. Mr. Brownlow's presentation of the detailed facts about fiscal relations is calculated, if it shall receive the attention it deserves, to dispel misgivings. Washington is not going to be abandoned by the nation. There has been no rigid scheme of distributing burdens; and the plan which now seems likely to be adopted gives promise of continuing about the same distribution of costs as in the past, while it will produce a better understanding and more sympathetic feeling between Congress and the local community.

## Class to Be Enrolled

## For Study of German

At the meeting of the Parents' League, Third division, public schools, Monday, a class in German will be enrolled. If the number of applicants is sufficient, a teacher will be provided immediately and study begun. The Parents' League already has large classes in domestic science, parliamentary law, military, sewing and Spanish. Efforts are being made to organize a chorus of 500 as the community singing class.

## Episcopal Church Women

## Will Serve Luncheon

Women of all Episcopal Churches of the District will assist in serving the annual luncheon for the benefit of the Episcopal Home for Children, which are to be given in the old Masonic Temple on Wednesday afternoon of next week. Mrs. William Scantlebury is in charge of the distribution of tickets. These luncheons have been served for a number of years, and have been most successful, proving particularly popular with business men.

## DISEASES FATAL TO MORE IN NAVY THAN ARE BULLETS

Surgeon General Braisted, in Report, Attacks Unchangeable Life Conditions.

## 38 DIE OF TUBERCULOSIS

Thirty-three More Were Victims of Pneumonia, While Only Thirty Died in Action.

Because of living conditions on battleships, which apparently cannot be corrected without reducing the fighting efficiency of the vessels, tuberculosis and pneumonia took a heavy toll of enlisted men last year, said Surgeon-General W. C. Braisted, in his annual report today.

Despite the military activities of both sailors and marines at Vera Cruz, they found the dangers of warfare less dangerous than living conditions on battleships.

There were thirty-eight deaths due to tuberculosis and thirty-three to pneumonia. Three officers died. Gunshot wounds took thirty lives.

Braisted lays responsibility for this situation to the fact that "in the crowded conditions necessary to manning and equipping vessels of war hygienic principles, such as are accepted as indispensable in life ashore, practically never achieve recognition."

"Overcrowding, extreme reductions of the amount of air space per person, improper proportion of moisture, and the inappropriate placing of air inlets and exits, over or under the heads of the men, are all faults and problems incident to the packing of 1,000 men in quarters which theoretically should hold but 300."

While he praises naval constructors for doing as well as they have under the conditions laid down by "military necessity," Braisted is unable to report that great improvements can be looked for.

However, such diseases as typhoid, measles, mumps and diphtheria have decreased in recent years. Three years ago there were 222 cases of typhoid, with fifteen deaths; last year only thirteen cases and no deaths.

Measles had been diminished, until there is now 60 per cent less, not more than 15 per cent, or 10 per cent, and 6 per cent each of mumps, measles and diphtheria.

The Surgeon General considers that typhoid has been practically eliminated from the navy, due to prophylactic inoculation. He also discusses typhoid improvement in the European armies, and the general discussion of sanitary conditions and measures in general in the light of the lessons of the European war.

The sanitary condition of the Washington navy yard is described as good for the last year.

Work of the naval hospital in Washington is described as having attained its usual standard of excellence. Data on the treatments at the naval hospital in concert with the United States army, and the cases of eye, ear, nose, or throat were attended by naval specialists.

Part of the report deals with the Naval Academy.

## SEAGLE, BARITONE, IS WELL RECEIVED

Makes Fine Impression in Concerts With Ruth Townsend and Mary C. Howe.

The second in the series of T. Arthur Smith's ten star concerts, given at the National Theater yesterday afternoon, presented to Washington Ocea Seagle, baritone, Ruth Townsend, contralto, and Mary Carlisle Howe, pianist. In concert, although Miss Townsend has sung here before, and is well known, and Miss Howe is a Washington woman, Mr. Seagle has never before been heard in concert in this city. He is heralded by a reputation greatly in his favor, Mr. Seagle, who is almost as famous as a teacher as he is as a singer, was in the position of having to add to, or at least approximate, an impression of great excellence. Judging from the manner in which his twelve numbers were rendered, his Washington debut was entirely successful.

His voice is of unusual range, and is true and sympathetic in quality, although his first number, the prologue from "Pagliacci," was not as richly interpreted as it might have been. Other numbers, "Musette" and "Chanson a Manger" were charmingly presented. "Chanson a Manger" was re-arranged by a second encore, "L'Amour de Moi," another old French air, was given. The group of five English songs were exceptionally well received. Five encores were given.

Miss Townsend displayed a voice of rare charm and quality, which showed the results of excellent training. Her first number was "Cannula to le Pays," from "Mignon."

Other numbers by Miss Townsend were a Brahms and a Schubert, all possible, "Prayer," by Burleigh, in which she played her own accompaniment.

Miss Howe, besides playing the accompaniments for Miss Townsend, gave a group of numbers from Beethoven, Schubert, and Tchaikovsky, with a prelude for the left hand by Schubert.

The next concert in this series will be given on November 13, when Miss Anna Case, soprano, and Overton Moyle, bass.

Women of all Episcopal Churches of the District will assist in serving the annual luncheon for the benefit of the Episcopal Home for Children, which are to be given in the old Masonic Temple on Wednesday afternoon of next week. Mrs. William Scantlebury is in charge of the distribution of tickets. These luncheons have been served for a number of years, and have been most successful, proving particularly popular with business men.

## One Year Ago Today in the War

The Germans attacked furiously along the whole front, but were repulsed, France said. The Germans claimed a considerable general victory. Russia claimed victories in East Prussia which were only partly denied by Germany.

## Federal Board Wants Reserve Banks to Have Gold Stock of a Billion

Proposal Made by Warburg, Who Believes Financial Engineering of America Should Be Equipped for Huge Task of World Banker That Is Being Pressed on It.

By JUDSON C. WELLIVER.

In order to equip the financial engineering of the United States for the huge task of world-banker that is now being pressed upon it, and that will be still more urgently forced upon it during and after the war, the Federal Reserve Board believes it is necessary for the reserve banks' control over the country's stock of gold to be strengthened and extended as much as possible.

The reserve banks now control about \$300,000,000 of gold. A year hence, on the basis of the past year's experience and present prospects for development of the system, they will control \$450,000,000.

But this is not enough. The board boldly takes the position that there ought to be such a mobilization of the gold resources of the country as would give these banks control of one billion, or even two billions, of gold.

## BEST GUARD AGAINST MONEY TRUST.

Such a proposal, which is put out by no less authority than Paul M. Warburg, of the Reserve Board, in behalf of that body, would have astonished the country even a year ago. Two and a half years ago, when Mr. Warburg or any other man of his business associations, it might have added greatly to the difficulties of getting the Federal reserve act passed. It would have been seized upon by some opponents of centralization as proof positive that a huge and dangerous financial monster was being built to hold financial domination of the country.

But conditions have wonderfully changed. Today, the Reserve Board puts forth its proposal that there ought to be a gold stock of a billion or two under the central authority and there is not even very real interest. The country has so soon become accustomed to the sense of solidity and security that the reserve banks' extension has given to its finances, that it takes the new condition for granted, has almost forgotten that there was a time when currency and panics, and does not stop to think what would have happened since the war began, if there had been no reserve bank act.

At least it has completely emancipated itself from the old fears that anything like a bank of the United States would be the capstone to a "money trust" system. It is now realized that the new banking system is the best possible guard against such a thing, and that the money trust, as well as the surest guarantor of financial soundness.

## Prospect Beyond Imagination.

In putting out his declaration that a billion or two of gold in the reserve banks would strengthen the financial position of the country greatly, and posture of the country would be brought about, Mr. Warburg pointed out his reasons for the statement. Gold that is in circulation, carried in the pockets of the people, where it is represented by a check or a bank note, is not so readily available for every demand of the national financial fabric, is not doing the best service of which it is capable.

The American stock of gold does not serve the nation's business so well as smaller gold stocks serve other countries. The world needs our resources of gold as not so carefully organized and scientifically mobilized and controlled. It is this scientific concentration and mobilization of the gold power that the Reserve Board wants to accomplish as soon as possible, in order that the country may be able to meet the great business stress that a new relation to world business is laying upon it. Mr. Warburg observed that the time has come when the expansion of the American banking will be in the next few years.

## Position For America.

The great creditor nations of the world are suddenly becoming more or less closely restricted by their home or being closely restricted by their home operations. The world needs somebody to perform the service they were able formerly to do, and there is no country with the wealth and the gold and peace, save only the United States, that can undertake the task. The demands will open, will be laid upon the measure of American capacity to utilize our resources most effectively. Never was there a time when the possibility of a great expansion of the United States, proper organization, and effective utilization of gold was so highly prized a token of national power as today. The war has driven all the countries to increase, conserve, and utilize their gold stores. Every one of them is preparing, with all possible haste, to perform the service they were able formerly to do, and there is no country with the wealth and the gold and peace, save only the United States, that can undertake the task. The demands will open, will be laid upon the measure of American capacity to utilize our resources most effectively.

## To Cultivate Conservatism.

For the present, efforts of the board are being directed to cultivate conservatism on the part of the reserve banks; to keep them in mind that they were not created to earn profits, but rather to serve another purpose, that of stabilizing the financial system; to convince them, in fact, that too much money for them would really be proof that they were not performing the very function for which they were designed.

It has been felt by some banking interests that the large capital tied up in the reserve banks, earning very little return, ought to be given larger opportunities for profit-making. Combating this view, which he admits is a perfectly natural one, Mr. Warburg has suggested that it may be found desirable to reduce the proportionate capital of the reserve banks.

## PORK BARREL VOTE EXPECTED TO LINE UP FOR BRYAN PLAN

Politicians Place Such Interpretation on Statement Denouncing Wilson's Speech.

## LOOKED ON AS SHREWD PLAY

Certain Classes of Congressmen Will Joyfully Seize Opportunity, Is Prediction.

That former Secretary of State William J. Bryan hopes to corral the "pork barrel" vote in Congress in his fight against President Wilson's national defense program is the interpretation placed in political circles on his statement denouncing the President's Manhattan Club speech.

By having his opposition to the President's program put on the ground that the money proposed to be spent on army units and warships could be expended to better advantage on internal improvements, Mr. Bryan, it is felt, has played shrewdly upon the cupidity of those accustomed to rely on generous Congressional appropriations for post offices and river and harbor work to keep them in Congress.

The "pork-barrel" statement have been feeling rather dubious about this proposition to devote some of the money heretofore squandered on public building in their districts to the cause of better preparedness.

## Expected To Line Up.

Consequently, it is expected that they will joyfully embrace the opportunity of lining up with Mr. Bryan and opposing the real motive of their opposition to the defense program behind the high moral and pacifist doctrine of the Nebraskaan.

National Democratic leaders who have thoroughly sided up the attitude of Mr. Bryan haven't the slightest doubt in their own minds that the fight he has launched against the President definitely severed his political relations with the chief Executive, and the result, if not the purpose of the attack will be to array the Bryan element in the next Democratic national convention against the renomination of President Wilson.

In this connection, it is pointed out, the defense program to which President Wilson has pledged himself covers a period of five years, and thus commits him, if re-elected, to a continuation of the policy to which Bryan is opposed.

That national defense is an issue in the next Presidential campaign is regarded as more than likely, and for that reason it is believed that Mr. Bryan will do his utmost to have a Democratic candidate a pacifist after his own heart. Should he find it difficult to find another such, it is thought not unlikely that he himself might be a candidate for the nomination.

## National Leaders Gloomy.

Altogether the national leaders are gloomy over the outlook, not because they believe that the President's program will be defeated, or that Mr. Bryan will succeed in preventing his renomination, but because they see in the break all the dark clouds of disaster which came to the Republican party with the defection of former President Roosevelt.

Last Tuesday's elections, with the Republican gains recorded therein are chalked up on the wall in a handwriting that is far from reassuring, however cheerfully the defeat is accepted. It is pointed out, if nothing else they showed that the Republican party, chastened by the defeat, is not so easily re-united, and that only a united Democratic party plus favorable circumstances not now foreseen will be able to win new power.

With a divided party it is feared that President Wilson's chances for re-election would be well-nigh hopeless.

## Burden of Proof Is on

## Those Who Favor Plan

## For Defense, Says Bryan

Former Secretary Bryan today issued another statement in which he renewed his assurances of friendship for President Wilson.

"I have no plans formulated. I am doing what I believe to be the duty of every citizen to do. However, I think individuals express themselves."

"Those who approve of his plan do not know what it is. They are not the people of all shades of opinion."

"When did it become unpatriotic for a citizen to differ from a President? When did it become disloyal for a Democrat to differ from a President?"

"The President said he would ask those who differed from him to express their opinion. He certainly will be the last to complain because his request is complied with. A great many people—no one can definitely state the number, but they are quite a multitude—believe that we cannot insure the nation against war by adopting the very policy which led Europe into war. It is more reasonable to assume that peace can be promoted between nations by some plan which will promote peace between individuals in communities. We are now spending \$550,000,000 a year for preparedness. A great many think that this is enough and are opposed to any increase at the present. The burden of proof is on those who say the increase is necessary and it will be hard to prove this in view of the President's statement that 'we are threatened from every quarter, but our relations with all nations are friendly; that everybody knows of our capacity for defense and that there is no fear among us.'"

Mr. Bryan said he had engagements in North Carolina next Monday and Tuesday, and that he would return to Washington before starting for Florida November 15, where he will make his winter home. He has several other engagements in the south.

## WHAT'S ON PROGRAM

## IN CAPITAL TODAY

## Meeting, Federation of Citizens' Associations.

Chamber of Commerce rooms, 8 p. m.

Meeting for Federation of Washington Organizations of Epworth League, Y. M. C. A., 8 p. m.

Meeting, Pigg Club, United Commercial Travelers, Pythian Temple, 8 p. m.

Lecture, The Philosophy of Aethism, Emma Goldman, Pythian Temple, 8 p. m.

Lecture, The Bank, by Miss Edith Long, National Library for the Blind, after-noon.

Dancing—Home Club.

Food Show—Convention Hall, 1:30 to 5:30 and 7:30 to 10:30.

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